



National Lawyers Guild International Committee [www.nlginternational.org](http://www.nlginternational.org)

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Dear Judge Advocate General Brigadier General Danny Efroni,

We write today on behalf of the Free Palestine Subcommittee of the National Lawyers Guild to express our grave concern over the ongoing hunger strike of Khader Adnan and to demand that he receives immediate medical treatment and unconditional release. Adnan began his hunger strike on December 17, 2011 – the day of his arrest – and as of the date of this letter, Adnan continues to refuse food. His hunger strike is now over 53 days long, and he is reportedly near death.

Adnan is the victim of torture and severe abuse. He was violently arrested in the early morning, during which Israeli soldiers raided his home, blindfolded him and tied his hands behind his back, hit him, kicked him, and beat him on the head in the back of the military vehicle. He was repeatedly interrogated for hours at a time, during which his hands were tied behind his back on a chair with a crooked back – this was done despite Adnan's disc problems in his back of which he informed prison doctors on his first day of detention. One interrogator also ripped part of Adnan's beard from his face and rubbed dirt in his face. Upon his transfer to Ramleh prison, Adnan was placed in isolation despite his ill health, where he was subjected to cold conditions, cockroaches, and blocked air circulation in his cell. Adnan has also been strip searched, and he has been denied all family visits for three months as punishment for his hunger strike.

On January 8, 2012, Adnan received a four-month administrative detention order. As with other administrative detainees, his detention is based on secret information available to the military judge but not to Adnan or his lawyer. This practice violates international humanitarian law, which permits the limited use of administrative detention but nevertheless requires a fair hearing at which the detainee can hear the evidence against him and challenge the bases for his continued detention. Moreover, the right to a fair trial is a fundamental tenet of international law, guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Israel is bound.

Furthermore, we note in particular that Khader Adnan has been placed in isolation. Palestinian prisoners have repeatedly demanded an end to the use of isolation and solitary confinement. In October 2011,

Palestinian prisoners undertook a hunger strike that lasted up to twenty days, its main demand being an end to the use of isolation and solitary confinement.

There are twenty Palestinian prisoners in long-term isolation, including Palestinian leader Ahmad Sa'adat, whose release from isolation was a primary demand of the October 2011 strike. Sa'adat has been in isolation for nearly three years, since March 18, 2009. We take this opportunity to reiterate the National Lawyers Guild's call of October 15, 2011 for ending the use of isolation and solitary confinement against Palestinian prisoners, and its call as of November 2, 2007 to free Ahmad Sa'adat and all Palestinian political prisoners.

On October 18, 2011, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez, speaking before the UN General Assembly, called for all use of isolation longer than 15 days to be banned, saying that isolation can cause "severe mental pain or suffering" and "can amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment when used as a punishment, during pre-trial detention, indefinitely or for a prolonged period...Segregation, isolation, separation, cellular, lockdown, supermax, the hole, secure housing unit... whatever the name, solitary confinement should be banned by states as a punishment or extortion technique."

We call upon the responsible Israeli authorities to immediately treat and release Khader Adnan and to end the use of administrative detention, as well as the practices of torture, isolation and solitary confinement of Palestinian prisoners.

Sincerely,

Free Palestine Subcommittee  
International Committee

National Lawyers Guild (United States)